

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK—VETERANS' TUITION RATE

RESOLVED, That eligible veterans, as well as eligible spouses and dependents of certain service members, be charged the same tuition rate as New York State residents to the extent required under federal or state law, effective June 1, 2015.

EXPLANATION:

On June 24, 2013, CUNY adopted a policy providing that veterans would be charged the same tuition as New York State residents for a period of 18 months from the first date of attendance at a CUNY college. This policy was adopted to enable veterans to attend CUNY using their GI benefits, because those benefits only paid tuition at the resident tuition rate at public colleges. Charging veterans the in-state rate for the first 18 months of their attendance at CUNY gave veterans time to establish New York State residency under CUNY's guidelines, after which they would be charged the in-state resident rate.

Subsequent to the promulgation of CUNY's policy in June 2013, both a federal law and a New York State law regarding tuition rates for veterans were enacted. The federal Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014, enacted on August 7, 2014, requires public colleges to provide in-state tuition rates for covered veterans regardless of their residency status. It also requires the same treatment for the spouse and children of service members who died in the line of duty after September 11, 2001, and for the spouse and children who receive educational assistance that is transferred from eligible service members. The federal law becomes effective during a quarter, semester or term that begins after July 1, 2015.

In addition, on August 18, 2014, the Governor of New York signed Chapter 328 of the Laws of 2014, which amended Section 6206 of the New York State Education Law to require the Trustees of CUNY to provide that the payment of tuition and fees for any student shall be no greater than the resident tuition rate where such student is attending CUNY in accordance with federal GI bills and in compliance with all applicable eligibility requirements thereof.

In light of these statutes, CUNY is adopting a revised policy that ensures that its tuition policy on veterans and the spouses and dependents of service members is consistent with federal and state law. This policy supersedes the June 24, 2013 policy. It is effective June 1, 2015 so that it can start with the Summer 2015 term.